



PO Box 10070
Lansing, MI 48901
kobrien@michiganrecycles.org
517.974.3672
www.michiganrecycles.org

April 25, 2012

Representative Ananich
Michigan House of Representatives
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Honorable Representative Ananich,

On behalf of the Michigan Recycling Coalition Board of Directors and members, I offer our support for and encourage passage of House Bill 5089 and 5090.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America estimates that 2.8 million pounds of prescription medications go unused by U.S. consumers and 1.5 million pounds goes unused by patients in long-term care facilities. Unused and outdated prescription medications affect public health in many ways. When stored at home these medications can get into the wrong hands and even be confusing for users, bringing harm to families. Many of these medications are disposed of improperly, flushed down toilets and drains or put in unsecured disposal containers where they can leach into the environment and cause problems in waterway habitats.

The solutions offered in HB 5089 and 5090 are exemplary. Allowing the redistribution of unused medication still within expiration dates provides valuable resources at minimal cost to the public and private agencies who manage the care of those in need. Requiring institutions, that already have a system to properly dispose of old medicines generated from their operations, to provide an invaluable public service and accept medications from the general public for proper disposal is a commonsense solution to a growing problem.

We believe HB 5089 and 5090 are the first of a number of steps Michigan must take to protect its citizens and its environment by expanding convenient options for residents to do the right thing and properly dispose of unused medications. As stewards of the country's greatest fresh water resources, it is in fact our duty to ensure its integrity for future generations. We urge the passage of HB 5089 and 5090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kerrin O'Brien'.

Kerrin O'Brien
Executive Director

Bill Gurn
MRC Board Chair
Haworth, Inc.

Lori Miller
MRC Board Vice Chair
Capitol Area Recycling & Trash

Matt Flechter
MRC Board Treasurer
*MI Dept. of Environmental
Quality*

Kate Neese
MRC Board Secretary
Clinton County

Matt Biolette
Chef Container

Roger Cargill
Schupan Recycling

Nick Carlson
Goodwill, Greater Grand Rapids

Mike Csapo
RRRASOC

Bill Haagsma
Speed-Tech Equipment

Matt Hammond
Bata Plastics, Inc

Kris Jolley
MSU Surplus & Recycling

Don Pyle
Delta Solid Waste Mgt. Authority

Cheryl Ann Schmidt
Dart Container Corp.

Mary Jo Van Natter
ReCommunity Recycling

Kerrin O'Brien
Executive Director
Michigan Recycling Coalition